

Amendments in the Claims: (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A dent-preventing device adapted for being removably positioned on a vehicle door, said device comprising:

5 an elongated rod having a first end and a second end, said rod including a first section and a second section wherein said first section is removably extendable into said second section such that said rod is selectively telescoping;

10 a first coupler being attached to said first end of said rod for selectively attaching said first end to a first edge of the door; said first coupler including a first leg, a second leg and a central portion attached to each of said first and second legs such that said first and second legs extend in generally the same direction with respect to each other, the first edge being selectively positioned between said first and second legs, a post being attached to said
15 first leg, said post extending in the same direction as said first leg, said post being attached to said first end of said rod such that said first and second legs extend toward said second end of said rod; and

a second coupler being attached to said second end of said rod for selectively attaching said second end to a second edge of the door such that said rod
20 extends between the first and second edges of the door, said second coupler including a first arm, a second arm and a middle section attached to each of said first and second arms such that said first and second arms extend in generally the same direction with respect to each other, the second edge being selectively positioned between said first and second
25 arms, a sleeve being attached to and extending in the same direction as said first arm, said second end of said rod extending into and being attached to said sleeve such that said first arm extends toward and is aligned with said first leg; and

30 a biasing member being mounted on said second coupler for selectively biasing the door away from said first arm and toward said second arm.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 2 1, wherein said first coupler comprises an elastomeric material.

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4. (original) The device according to claim 3, wherein a distance from a longitudinal axis of said rod to an outer surface of said rod being less than a distance from the longitudinal axis to said first leg.

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5. (original) The device according to claim 2, wherein a distance from said longitudinal axis of said rod to an outer surface of said rod being less than a distance from said longitudinal axis to said first leg.

Claims 6-9 (cancelled)

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10. (currently amended) The device according to claim 9 1, wherein said biasing member includes a panel being attached to said sleeve and having a free end positioned between said first and second arms, a threaded rod being threadably coupled to and extending through said first arm and toward said second arm, said threaded arm abutting said panel, wherein said rod may be moved toward said second arm such that the door is releasably secured between said panel and said second arm.

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11. (original) The device according to claim 1, further including a plurality of elastomeric bands being positioned on and extending around said rod.

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12. (currently amended) A dent-preventing device adapted for being removably positioned on a vehicle door, said device comprising:

an elongated rod having a first end and a second end, said rod including a first section and a second section wherein said first section is removably extendable into said second section such that said rod is selectively

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telescoping, said rod having a substantially cylindrical cross-section taken perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said rod;

5 a first coupler being attached to said first end of said rod for selectively attaching said first end to a first edge of the door, said first coupler including a first leg, a second leg and a central portion attached to each of said first and second legs such that said first and second legs extend in generally the same direction with respect to each other, the first edge being selectively positioned between said first and second legs, a post being attached to said first leg, said post extending in the same direction as said first leg, said
10 post being attached to said first end of said rod such that said first and second legs extend toward said second end of said rod, said first coupler comprising an elastomeric material, a distance from said longitudinal axis of said rod to an outer surface of said rod being less than a distance from said longitudinal axis to said first leg;

15 a second coupler being attached to said second end of said rod for selectively attaching said second end to a second edge of the door such that said rod extends between the first and second edges of the door, said second coupler including a first arm, a second arm and a middle section attached to each of said first and second arms such that said first and second arms
20 extend in generally the same ~~section~~ direction with respect to each other, the second edge being selectively positioned between said first and second arms, a sleeve being attached to and extending in the same direction as said first arm, said second end of said rod extending into and being attached to said sleeve such that said first arm extends toward and is
25 aligned with said first leg, said second coupler comprising an elastomeric material, the distance from said longitudinal axis of said rod to said outer surface of said rod being less than a distance from said longitudinal axis to said first arm;

30 a biasing member being mounted on said second coupler for selectively biasing the door away from said first arm and toward said second arm, said biasing member including a panel being attached to said sleeve and having

5 a free end positioned between said first and second arms, a threaded rod being threadably coupled to and extending through said first arm and toward said second arm, said threaded arm abutting said panel, wherein said rod may be moved toward said second arm such that the door is releasably secured between said panel and said second arm; and a plurality of elastomeric bands being positioned on and extending around said rod.

13. (new) A dent-preventing device adapted for being removably positioned on a vehicle door, said device comprising:
- 10 an elongated rod having a first end and a second end, said rod including a first section and a second section wherein said first section is removably extendable into said second section such that said rod is selectively telescoping;
- 15 a first coupler being attached to said first end of said rod for selectively attaching said first end to a first edge of the door;
- 20 a second coupler being attached to said second end of said rod for selectively attaching said second end to a second edge of the door such that said rod extends between the first and second edges of the door, said second coupler including a first arm, a second arm and a middle section attached to each of said first and second arms such that said first and second arms extend in generally the same direction with respect to each other, the second edge being selectively positioned between said first and second arms; and
- 25 a biasing member being mounted on said second coupler for selectively biasing the door away from said first arm and toward said second arm.